



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Member Agency	Contact	Present
Alterra Technologies	Jim Stevens Matt Kelly	
Brazoria County Engineer's Office	Kevin Sherrodd Eric W. Dyess	
Burditt Consultants, LLC	Paul Howard John Ross	
CDS Market Research	Josh Wadley Charlie Savino	
CenterPoint Energy	Cindi Salas John Chambers	
City of Alvin	Ron Rosenwald Doug Ross	
City of Conroe	Les McKay Angela Slayton	
City of Houston, Houston Emergency Center	Ed Loomis	●
City of Houston, Planning and Development	Max Samfield Larry Nierth Chris McPhilamy	● ●
City of Houston, Public Utilities Division	Greg Johnson Anthony Powell	● ●
City of League City	Rick Brezik Andra Caudel	
City of Pasadena	Charles Vaughan Matt Ross	●
City of Pearland	Michael Masters	
City of Sugar Land	Mark L. Hochstein Erik Schenck	●
City of Tomball	Delia McDonald Erin Knesek	●
City of West University Place	Bart Harms Gary McFarland	
CivilTech Engineering, Inc.	Annie Ding	●
Claunch & Miller, Inc.	Doug Wilson Joshua Vickrey	●
CLR, Inc.	Scott Fair Hugh Clarkson	
Contract Land Staff	Leon Law Kevin Taliaferro	
Cypress Creek Emergency Management Services	Toivo Sari	
Dodson & Associates, Inc.	Mark Starks Michael Henze	



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Fort Bend County Engineer's Office	Richard Dela Mater Ronald Drachenberg	●
Galveston Central Appraisal District	David Arnold	
Greater Fort Bend County EDC	Barkley Peschel	
Greater Harris County 911	Marc Berryman Greg Platek	
Harris County Appraisal District	Jackie Smith Chengyan Wu	
Harris County Emergency Services District 7	Alan D. Lankford Tim Highley	
Harris County Flood Control District	Scott Lamon Michael Walters	
Harris County Information Technology Center	Travis Conner	
Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services	Christina Hailey Dischinger Stefan Nawrocki	
Harris County Public Infrastructure Department Architecture & Engineering Division	Samuel Garcia Andre C. Bally	●
Harris County Tax Office	Bryan Dunaway Ed Johnson	
Harris County Toll Road Authority	Jason C. Cowart Burt Lee	● ●
Houston Advanced Research Center	Mustapha Beydoun Will Alvis	● ●
Houston Airport System	Katherine Luu Brandon Williams	
Houston Community College	Richard DeBose	
Houston Fire Department	James Hugo Adrian Trevino	
Houston TranStar	Maria Cristela Vera	●
Houston-Galveston Area Council	Tanya Nguyen Robert LaBarbera	● ●
Katy Area Economic Development Council	Steven Perry Lance LaCour	
Klein Volunteer Fire Department	Rich Jones	
Knudson	Ben Murphey Amanda Jaloway Matt Bruning	
LAN (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam), Inc.	Derek St. John David Manuel	
LJA Engineering & Surveying	George Culver Brandon Copeland	●



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Magellan Consulting, Inc.	Virginia Appl Sam Wilson	
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County	John Labio Bryan Carroll	●
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	Vince Hamilton Daniel Bally	●
Montgomery & Associates, LLC	Crystal Carreon Dehui Su	●
Montgomery County 911	Chiu-Wen Ray Robert M. Gunter	●
North Harris College (now, Lone Star)	Peter E. Price Michael Konvicka	●
Pate Engineers, Inc.	Cheli Cellmer Amanda Menard	
PBS & J	Timothy P. Ledet Gray Rackley	
Port of Houston Authority	Grant Garrison Brian Doolittle	●
R7 Solutions	Bryan Hassin Kraettli Epperson	
Rice University	Eva Garza German Diaz	
Sam Houston State University Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas	David William Webb David R. Hoffpaur	
TCB (Turner, Collie & Braden)	Bruce Davidson Lori Lakatos	● ●
Texas Department of Transportation	Kathy DeBettencourt Cindy Gloyna Jeremy Scott	● ●
Texas Medical Center	Marilyn A. Robinson Bassem Nassif	
Texas Southern University	Dr. Qisheng Pan Dr. Lalita Sen	
Texas Water Development Board	Felicia D. Retiz Erik O'Brian	
University of Houston, Department of Economics	Janet Kohlhase	
Waller County Economic Development Partnership	Vince Yokom	



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Call to Order	Mark Hochstein called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.	Mark Hochstein (City of Sugar Land)
Review of the March Minutes	The March 5th GDC minutes were adopted as circulated.	Mark Hochstein (City of Sugar Land)
Aerial Imagery Update	<p>Hugh Bender gave an update on the project status.</p> <p>Sanborn has done all of the flights, is processing the QC of the raw images, and is working on the aerial triangulation (AT). The AT is done for the 1 foot and almost complete for the 3 inch and 6 inch.</p> <p>Next step for Sanborn is the preparation of the DEM for production. For many counties this step is complete or almost complete. Sanborn is using a variety of data sets, but using existing LiDAR data where possible.</p> <p>Sanborn is currently working with the aerial subcommittee. Sanborn is re-processing the raw imagery to sharpen it based on the recommendations of the committee. Now Sanborn is completing the AT and then going immediately into production of the 1<sup>st</sup> block of imagery. Also, Sanborn is setting up the training for an online QC and the 1<sup>st</sup> block imagery should be delivered at the end of April.</p> <p>For the last month, Sanborn was working with the subcommittee on the detail and coloring of the final product. Committee wanted sharper images; Sanborn indicated that their pilots are different than the 2006 imagery due to a different sensor and the processing system. Modifications were requested by the committee and brightness and saturation have been increased. Karen was able to add these details into the process without delaying too much, though these details have not been done before. Each committee member will need to review the pilots again from the ftp site and print and plot the points, etc. Last week the committee came up with the final set of parameters and those samples are now on the ftp site. Robert indicated that the four pilots were taped on the wall as printed by H-GAC. Hugh indicated that the color and brightness, etc. now seem to be acceptable by the committee members. After Sanborn gets final acceptance, they will go into full production. The committee was careful to determine the sharpening without degradation of the images. Sanborn will reprocess all of the imagery and the delivery delay is now 30 days. To keep closer to the original contract date, options available are available: get online QC program for free for the subcommittee to accelerate QC process, put imagery on servers and committee members can access and view imagery, make calls and document. These options provide</p>	Hugh Bender (Sanborn)



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
<p>Aerial Imagery Update (cont'd)</p>	<p>no need to download imagery and keep a standard QC process for everyone.</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera asked for a shapfile for ground control markers to be in online QC as well. Hugh said yes, will do; can use to validate accuracy.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein indicated that a map is available that shows revised delivery date.</p> <p>One GDC member asked if the Infrared imagery would be part of the delivery and geo-referenced. Hugh said yes.</p>	<p>Hugh Bender (Sanborn)</p>
<p>Oblique Imagery Update</p>	<p>Matt gave a project update for the oblique imagery.</p> <p>All of the flying is completed. Pictometry was unable to fly 4% due to air traffic control. The blue section of the map – 2 airline paths that air traffic control would not allow Pictometry to fly at 2500 ft for the 4 inch imagery. Pictometry will come back and get the imagery but probably not able to do so until May. The area is approximately 150 square miles and will be leaf-on at that time. For now Pictometry will use the 2005-2006 imagery to fill in. Eventually Pictometry will also get leaf-off when it first happens again. The delivery time frame is looking like mid-April now. QC should be done today or tomorrow.</p> <p>Pictometry needs to know if the participating entities want the imagery loaded by Pictometry at the entity's location or if they are sending a hard drive to have returned. The imagery is well over a terabyte of data. An entity can also purchase the hard drive from Pictometry and have it sent.</p>	<p>Matt Thomas (Pictometry)</p>
<p>LiDAR Imagery Update</p>	<p>On March 5<sup>th</sup> Merrick was able to complete the acquisition for the entire project area. Merrick is also 98% complete with the field survey portion. Once the field work has been completed, Merrick will start producing maps and preparing documentation on the accuracy that they are seeing. Merrick is working with H-GAC on the delivery schedules for different areas; may change some based on Sanborn's schedule.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked if the LiDAR area for Fort Bend County matches the area that was done before. Doug said there was overlap and that Merrick will use that data to determine where they match up.</p>	<p>Doug Jacoby (Merrick)</p>
<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data</p>	<p>Eric Ebers spoke about the online product that participating entities can use and how InfoUSA procures its data.</p> <p>The company is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska and is one of the last known data compilers where the</p>	<p>Eric Ebers (InfoUSA)</p>



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>compilation is done all in house.</p> <p>To procure the data, InfoUSA starts first with phone books and every entry from them are typed into the database. Phone books are sent to the company from everywhere. InfoUSA telephone-verifies every entry by calling each number.</p> <p>The company has people that read headline news, gets updates from Sec of State's office, and gets updates from utility districts. Household information comes from the white pages of the phone book, updates from voter registration (33 states, including Texas), public real estate information, and self-reported consumer filings (warranty cards).</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera asked if InfoUSA buys information from magazine subscriptions. Eric said yes, based on lifestyle choice magazines, i.e. all patent holders.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked if people that buy data are allowed to solicit using the telephone numbers. Eric said they have to determine if it is a telemarketing campaign or research campaign and then if it is telemarketing, InfoUSA marks files as Do Not Call.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein complimented Eric on use of uniform street names throughout the data.</p> <p>Another person asked about latitude and longitude fields that come with the data and where InfoUSA comes up with those. Eric said all data is done at address level and InfoUSA scrubs everything through the change of address database. Each address is put through Tele-atlas software to get the latitude and longitude. The software provides a geo-strength indicator that gives a match code indicating whether done it is done at the address level or zip-central. 91% of the database is address level. Robert LaBarbera clarified that zip-central indicates that if the software can't find the address, it puts a dot in the middle of the zipcode.</p> <p>Someone asked if Tele-atlas was the only software used to geocode. Eric said yes. Data from InfoUSA also works well with ESRI software.</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera asked if InfoUSA is providing the same data to the GDC as to ESRI business analysts. Eric believes that it is, but not with as many fields.</p> <p>Eric then showed a demo of the online tool with sample searches. The online tool provides access to the same database that InfoUSA pulled the data from. The tool is useful for more ad hoc research purposes. An</p>	<p>Eric Ebers (InfoUSA)</p>



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data (cont'd)</p> <p>InfoUSA Business and</p>	<p>organization can download records, but not in huge quantities. An organization is able to do a quick and a custom search. The tool is setup to display 25 results per page. Jeremy Scott asked if this is a public search. Eric said no, InfoUSA provides a secure login for the 19 participants.</p> <p>Putting in a word for a business name will pull up acronyms as well. 62% of business database has 1-4 employees.</p> <p>Someone asked what type of information is collected on hospitals, like number of beds, etc. Eric said InfoUSA does collect all of that type of descriptive data, though might only be in the download and not in the online tool.</p> <p>Someone asked if participants will still get the data the same way as in the past or whether the online tool is it. Eric said no, will still get the full amount of data on cd. Raw data will still be online and participants can get updates throughout the year.</p> <p>Someone asked how much of the data changes on a quarterly basis. Eric said he knows for the national level, but not for just Harris County. He said he would try to find out the answer.</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera asked Eric if InfoUSA's IT department is working on changing the website to allow specific persons to download more than 25 records at a time, for instance the participants when H-GAC buys the data. Eric said yes, they are working on that.</p> <p>Someone asked if there were date lapses on the data. Eric said no, but InfoUSA does keep track of whether telephone verification has been made and then if 3 fruitless attempts, leave data as unchanged.</p> <p>A GDC Member stated that the data may be useful to entities for businesses, including public organizations, outside of their areas. For example, fire departments, etc. that an entity needs to know about.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked when download data, what format does it come out in. Eric responded .csv – comma separated variable.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein commented that he would like Eric to come out again next year before the purchase to discuss the data and promote more participation. Eric said yes, and they have more updates to the data coming, including executive bios, products and brands.</p>	<p>Eric Ebers (InfoUSA)</p>



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Household Data (cont'd)	Tanya Nguyen indicated that participants must contact Thomas Schultz for the access code to download the InfoUSA data online.	Eric Ebers (InfoUSA)
Nominations for GDC positions	<p>Mark opened the floor to nominations for GDC Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Only GDC members can nominate someone. Nominations will be taken through email during the month. After nomination, Robert LaBarbera or Amy Adkins will contact the nominated person to make sure they accept the nomination. Robert clarified that the member should talk to the person before nominating them.</p> <p>After nominations are received and verified, at next meeting elections will be held. Members will be notified of the nominees via email. If a quorum exists at the next meeting, the GDC will vote, but if not, votes will be done via email.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein nominated Jeremy Scott for Vice-Chair. Jeremy accepted the nomination and nominated Scott Lamon for Secretary. Robert LaBarbera nominated Mark Hochstein for Chair. Mark accepted and Jeremy Scott seconded that nomination.</p>	Mark Hochstein (City of Sugar Land)
GDC Financial Report	<p>Robert presented the financial report to the GDC for 2007. Started with revenue: GDC Membership dues – \$52,000. InfoUSA – \$37,000. Key Map – \$8,500. StarMap – \$57,400. GIS Day Exhibit / Sponsorships – \$8,700. Grand total for revenue was \$163,624.13.</p> <p>Next expenses: Salaries – \$65,000. Key Map – \$8,500. InfoUSA – \$9,000 for business data, \$1,080 for internet access, and \$30,000 for household data. Centerpoint data is purchased on a quarterly basis - \$6,000. Office supplies - \$1,600. Meeting expenses, kolaches - \$3,198. Administrative charges from finance pool - \$24,000. GIS Day – Contract services - \$4,670, Postage \$300, Outside printing - \$744, Parking \$595. Grand total for expenses was \$174,966.68.</p> <p>GDC currently has a deficit of \$11,342.55.</p> <p>Mark asked about InfoUSA data and clarification of consumer database charge. Robert confirmed that the charge is for household data.</p>	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)
Other Issues		
Texas Railroad Commission Data	Flood Control requested the 2008 data set from the Railroad Commission – airports, cemeteries, roads (highways and major roads), railroads, subdivisions, survey areas, water bodies, water channels, pipelines, and	Scott Lamon (HCFCD)



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Texas Railroad Commission Data (cont'd)	<p>various types of wells. Flood Control received the data early last month. In the past, the Commission said Flood Control could not redistribute. This time, they can redistribute, but only to government agencies, not educational institutions or private institutions. This fact does not prevent those organizations from requesting the data straight from the Railroad Commission themselves.</p> <p>If a government agency wants the data, please fill out the distribution agreement form that Flood Control provided to H-GAC and send it back to Flood Control. Thomas Schultz will set the requesting agency up via ftp and get them the login information.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked Scott if the main purpose of the data is for the pipeline information. Scott said yes, Flood Control uses the pipelines and surface wells for its watershed environmental baseline data.</p>	Scott Lamon (HCFCD)
Harris County ITC	<p>Jeremy announced that Roger Forshee has retired from Harris County ITC. Robert commented that Roger was very instrumental in the creation of the GDC and the STAR*Map.</p> <p>Someone commented that GDC has lost a lot of institutional knowledge over the last few years with all of the original persons forming the GDC gone now.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein said he would like to see an award created for Roger to honor GIS excellence.</p>	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
H-GAC Website	<p>Robert indicated that Steve Howard (COO, H-GAC) has requested that a separate website be created for all committees of H-GAC. The request does not take away the current GDC website, but provides another forum to allow members to see other committee members. Several other committees exist at H-GAC including transportation committees. H-GAC is not sure of the length of the project, but will keep the GDC updated.</p>	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)
H-GAC Training	<p>Mark Hochstein asked Robert if H-GAC was planning any more training. Robert said H-GAC would take another census later in the summer to determine what GDC members are interested in. Robert mentioned that Christina Dischinger has a constant training schedule for ArcGIS I &amp; II.</p>	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)
GIS Day Committee	<p>Kickoff meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at HCPHES building.</p>	Maria Vera (Houston TranStar)



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

Aerial TAC	Those persons doing last reviews need to get back with Robert and give him the go ahead. The Aerial TAC will have another meeting later this month, probably to demo the online QC tool. Jeremy Scott asked if and Robert clarified that the online QC tool will not hold the GDC back in getting the aerial imagery done.	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)
SCAUG	Next week the South-Central Arc User's Group (SCAUG) is having a GIS convention in Corpus. Go online for more information: <a href="http://www.scaug.org">www.scaug.org</a> .	General

Adjournment  
Upcoming Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 9:30 am

<b>GDC Guests</b>	<b>Contact</b>
City of Houston	Kirt Arthur
City of La Porte	Isaac Rodriguez
City of Missouri City	Ralph Granados
DCJ Partners, Inc.	David Dunham
Fort Bend County	Chris Wood
Geodynamic Solutions Inc.	Bob Amos
Grounds Anderson, LLC	Brandon Grimm
Harris County Engineer's Office	Ashli Prejean
HNTB	Noel Bowman David Terry
LJA Engineering	Marcia Yim
Merrick & Company	Doug Jacoby
Michael Baker Corporation	Kimberly Hiller
Occidental Petroleum Corporation	Shyla Liebscher
Sanborn Mapping	Hugh Bender
Texas Department of Transportation	Peter Sissons
University of Houston	Janet Kohlhase